

REMARKSStructure of the invented mount:

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of the present application as not being patentable over Ching-Fang Su's US patent 5,462,782, the Examiner earlier advised that the Applicant must better clarify the distinction between the structures and compositions of the present application and the invention of SU.

Accordingly, to make clear that the present invention consists of a single piece of plastic - in contrast to Su's composite of two layers of plastic, one hard, one soft - the description of the present mount is amended in the appropriate claims, to read:

"... each mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC".

This amendment is incorporated in claims 1, 24, 25, 36, 40 and 41.

Softness of the single layer:

The "cling" properties of, particularly, PVC are well-known to be directly proportional to the softness of the plastic, which is directly proportional to the weight percentage of plasticizer, otherwise called "softener", added to the PVC or other plastic in manufacture, according to the softness required for the application.

The present application would regard as "soft", a PVC or other plastic layer which is thus made adequately soft to confer sufficient cling property for the stated purpose of holding sheet material on glass. PVC with approximately 55% of plasticizer additive will generally be known as soft to this extent in the relevant industries and, at this level of plasticizer, the PVC is empirically soft enough. Such soft PVC is not rigid but retains its ability to be produced as a film. Reference to this is made in the specification at 0028.

Hence, the single layer mount, made of PVC or another plastic which may be softened by the addition of plasticizers, is defined in claim 11 as further comprising a plasticizer. The addition of plasticizer to any plastic is generally for softening and the inclusion of claim 11 implies a softening purpose and this in turn confers "cling". Other plastics can be induced to exhibit cling properties to an extent by the addition of softening plasticizers suitable to their composition. This is referred to in claims 10 to 12.

The softness of the plastic is referred in claim 12, where, as a specific, the known or usual minimum percentage of plasticizer to achieve what the industry would regard as "soft" PVC is given.

Claim 12 is amended in connection with this.

Limitation of size :

The Examiner has stated that the expression

"...the first surface of each mount is capable of adhering.... only..."

as used in claim 5, did not constitute a positive limitation in respect of the size of the invented mount. Accordingly, the affected claims are amended to limit the size of the mount in relation to the sheet object it mounts, by substituting

"... the first surface of each mount adheres the mount to only a part..."

Claims 5, 24 and 26 are amended.

Conclusion

The applicant hopes that the present submission is procedurally acceptable and respectfully asks that the examiner withdraw his remaining objections to the patentability of the present application over Su.

Should the examiner feel that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the applicant, John MacAlister, on +44 1728 668 204, at any time, notwithstanding the time-zone differences, or to fax + 44 1728 668 664, giving a convenient time for the applicant to call back.

Submitted by

John MacAlister
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